

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Synthesia, National Enterprise, Sentin	DATE DISTR.	21 May 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Synthesia, National Enterprise, is situated northwest of Pardubice on the north side of the Pardubice-Bohdanec road, in the Doubravice area.
2. Description of the Concern: The general layout of the enterprise is shown in the attached sketch, and explained in the legend thereto. The following points are in amplification of the legend:
 - a. Re, No. 2 on legend: This new power station, for the exclusive use of Sentin, was built in 1952. It is steam-powered and part of the steam comes from pipes laid from the old boiler house in Sentin to the new power station, in December 1952. The pipe is made of metal and has a diameter of 40 to 50 cm., covered with glass wool, which, in turn, is covered with a layer of zinc sheeting.
 - b. Re, No. 5: The building which, with the gatekeeper's lodge, is shown at fig. 6 on the sketch, measures about 50 meters. The ground floor consists of garages for passenger cars. On the second floor there is a dining room and a cloakroom.
 - c. Re, No. 10: Military advisers and experts, who use this building, wear military uniforms. The ground-floor windows have bars and ordinary factory employees are forbidden entry.
 - d. Re, No. 13: The school in this building is an elementary school for children of employees. In addition to the school, the C.P. secretariat, and the cadre department, there is also a food store.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		ORR Ev	X	OSI	EV	
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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- e. Re. No. 14: The railway track which intersects the factory leads to this first-aid post.
- f. Re. No. 16: Close to this building stands a reservoir which has a diameter of 15 meters and is 15 meters high.
- g. Re. No. 18: The water in the factory is not fit for drinking. Soft drinks are produced in this building for employees.
- h. Re. No. 24: These buildings contain centrifugal processors. Various beaters (vats with power beaters) called "Hollanders" were assembled here in 1952. These contain mixing devices which mix raw materials, such as paper, with different acids. The buildings have two/three stories with an average size of 40 x 20 meters. They all have paper roofs (sic)¹ because of the danger of explosions.
- i. Re. No. 32: In one of these underground buildings which contain "rollers", an explosion occurred on 2 July 1952.
3. The concern produces saltpeter, nitroglycerin, oxygen, liquid air, Ecrasite, Donelite,² detonators, and other explosives.
4. During the whole year of 1952 there were some 8 to 10 explosions in the plant. In those which occurred in June and July, eight people were killed.
5. Synthesia in Sementin and in Rybitvi has about 8,000 employees. The majority work in three shifts.
6. Stavobet, National Enterprise, concerned with concrete structures, has its main offices in Doubravice and is predominantly engaged in construction work for Synthesia.
7. Access to the factory is through the gatekeeper's lodge upon presentation of a plant pass. Passes used to be controlled by the works militia, who have now been replaced by the Interior Guard (Vnitřní stráž).
8. Only people with good cadre reports are selected for employment in Synthesia; absenteeism and turn-over of personnel are therefore at a minimum.
9. Among the employees of Stavobet, who built the new Sementin plant, working morale was poor.

Comment: Probably tar-base roofing paper.

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Comment: Probably Donarite is meant.

Enclosure: 1 map section (Air)

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Legend to sketch of site:

1. Tenement houses of employees.
2. New power station.
3. Camp of Interior Guard carrying out guard duties at Synthesia.
4. Wire fence on concrete posts which surrounds the whole factory.
5. Gatekeeper's lodge and garage; this is the main entrance.
6. Gatekeeper's.
7. Gatekeeper's.
8. Factory management offices. Two buildings, each of 3 stories; one is 30 x 20 meters, the other is 15 x 20 meters.
9. Houses of the technical staff. Two buildings, each of 3 stories, and measuring 20 x 30 meters.
10. Military experts' offices. 3 stories, 20 x 30 meters.
11. Dining room, canteen, and factory post office.
12. Paved connecting road.
13. C.P. secretariat, cadre department, and school; 3 stories, 20 x 30 meters.
14. First-aid post. 40 meters long; 2 stories.
15. Ferro-concrete building, 30 x 30 meters and 20 meters high. Roasting of pyrites.
16. Ferro-concrete building, 3 stories, 20 x 30 meters. Instruments for liquid air are believed to be assembled here.
17. Storehouse. Completed in 1952, 30 x 30 meters.
18. Garage and soft-drinks plant; one floor, 40 meters long.
19. Three-story building. Gatekeeper is at western end of this building.
20. Garages, cloakrooms, and forge. Cloakrooms and garages are on the side of the building running from north to south. The forge is in the wing which runs at a right angle to the rest.
21. Oxygen chambers, 10 x 30 meters.
22. Gas works. 5-story, 20 x 20 meters; chimney about 50 meters high; gasometer and reservoir are adjacent to the gas works.
23. Building where saltpeter is produced. 3-story, 100 meters long. Adjacent building, used for same purpose, is 40 x 20 meters.
24. Group of buildings.
25. Production room for nitroglycerin; iron with brick facing, 30 x 30 meters.
26. Laboratories.
27. Boiler house, 100 meters along main road. Coal is moved by conveyor belt from trucks. Two chimneys, 90 and 60 meters high.
28. Fire station and garage.
29. Laboratory. Masonry, 30 x 15 meters.
30. Paper store. Masonry, 50 x 15 meters.
31. Gatekeepers for the buildings in the woods.
32. Underground construction in the woods. Near the gate is an oil and gasoline dump.
33. Machine repair shop.
34. Stavobet offices.
35. Shipping department.

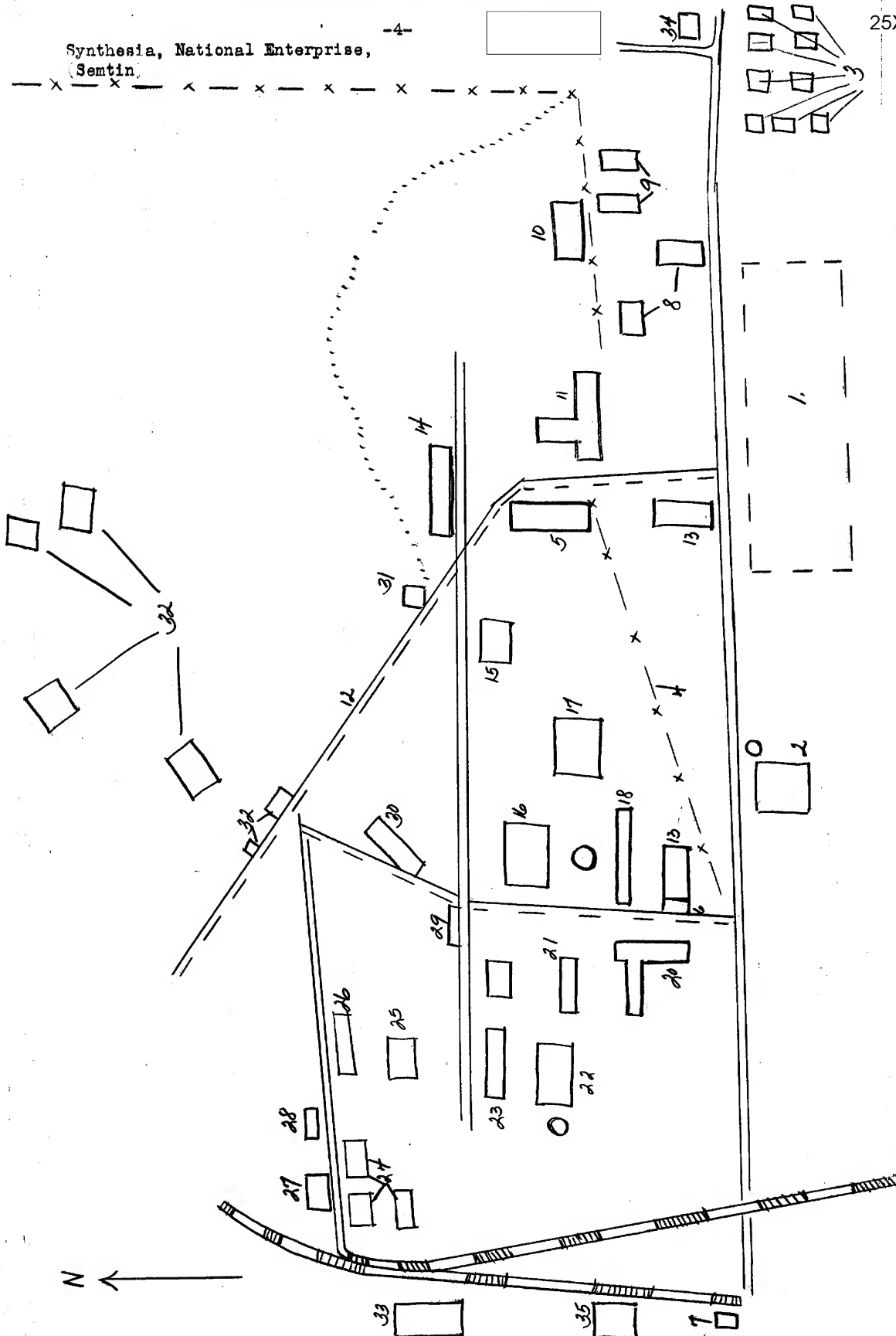
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